

REMARKS


Initially, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative during the several telephone conferences beginning June 30, 2005 and culminating in the agreement reached on July 7, 2005. In view of that discussion, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, independent claim 4 has been amended to include subject matter presently set forth in independent claim 1 which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Similarly, new independent claim 18 has been added which is previous independent claim 4 including subject matter from independent claim 3 which the Examiner has likewise indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 3, 4 and 18 as well as those claims which depend therefrom is now in proper condition for allowance.

The foregoing amendments have been carried out in order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application. It is noted that independent claim 4 has not been subjected to a prior art rejection, and consequently, the foregoing amendments have not been made to overcome a prior art rejection but have only been carried as suggested by the Examiner in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application. It should further be noted that claims of a scope similar to that of original independent claim 4, which do not include the foregoing amendments have been allowed and related in co-pending Application Serial No. 10/770,464 and the foregoing amendments are not to be inferred as limiting such claims.

Therefore, as noted hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 3, 4 and 18 as well as those claims which depend therefrom are now in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered and fully considered by the Examiner, that claims 1-7 and 18-21 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a further conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker
Reg. No. 32,815

Nixon Peabody LLP
401 9th Street N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D. C. 20004
(202) 585-8000